Office of River Protection
Tank Waste Remediation System Project

Expectation:

Protect the Columbia River, our workers and the public by safely storing and disposing of high-level radioactive tank waste.

Status Update:

- **Initiated pumping from first tank in S Farm. We're now pumping liquid wastes from five underground single-shell tanks: T-104, T-110, SX-104, SX-106 and S-102. About 75,000 gallons were pumped out this quarter, and more than 183,000 gallons since last summer.**

- **DOE and Washington State agreed on consent decree covering pumping milestones; 60-day public comment period on new schedule began March 3.**

Dana Bryson of DOE's Office of River Protection called the pact "a key achievement in terms of defining a clear path forward," and said it "puts the environment first."

A probe is inserted to check the thickness of the waste crust inside Tank SY-101. Some liquids may be transferred from SY-101 to another double-shell tank, SY-102, later this year to mitigate a rise in the measured level of wastes in the tank.

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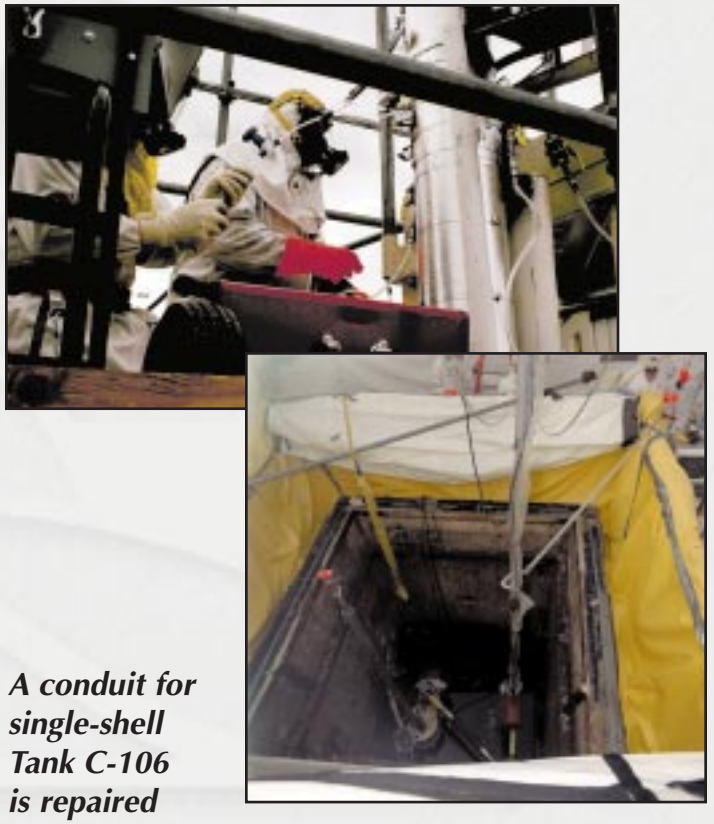
Status Update (continued):

- Replaced a leaking conduit for single-shell Tank C-106. In two successful process tests, we removed about 20 inches of sludge from the tank to reduce the safety risk from this high-heat tank.

- We replaced the tank farms' outdated computer-automated surveillance system, in service since 1978, with a Year 2000-compliant monitoring and control system.

- Completed final design for retrieval of wastes from Tank AN-105 three months early. This is part of the effort that will feed tank wastes to Hanford's future vitrification plant.



A conduit for single-shell Tank C-106 is repaired (bottom photo) prior to process tests (top photo), during which about 20 inches of waste sludge were moved to a safer, double-shell tank, AY-102.

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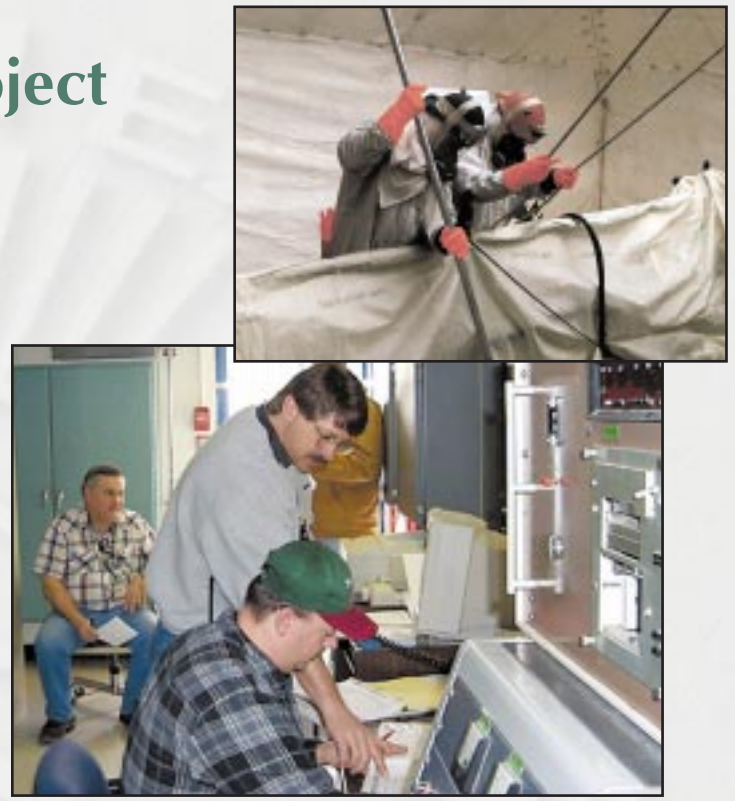
Status Update (continued):

- On March 10, the first liquid wastes moved through a new cross-site transfer line. 145,000 gallons were transferred from SY-102, one of only three double-shell tanks in 200 West, to AP-107, one of 25 newer, safer, double-shell tanks in 200 East.

Future Focus Areas:

- Begin pumping two more single-shell tanks by July 30, 1999.
- Continue sluicing to retrieve sludge from high-heat Tank C-106.
- Update planning documents to ensure tank wastes will be available when needed by the privatized vitrification plant.



Movement of liquid wastes through the new cross-site transfer system is monitored in the control room. Before the first transfer, workers suited up to install flexible jumpers, or conduits. About 1,400,000 gallons will be transferred to 200 East double-shell tanks this year to make room for the wastes being pumped from aging single-shell tanks in 200 West.